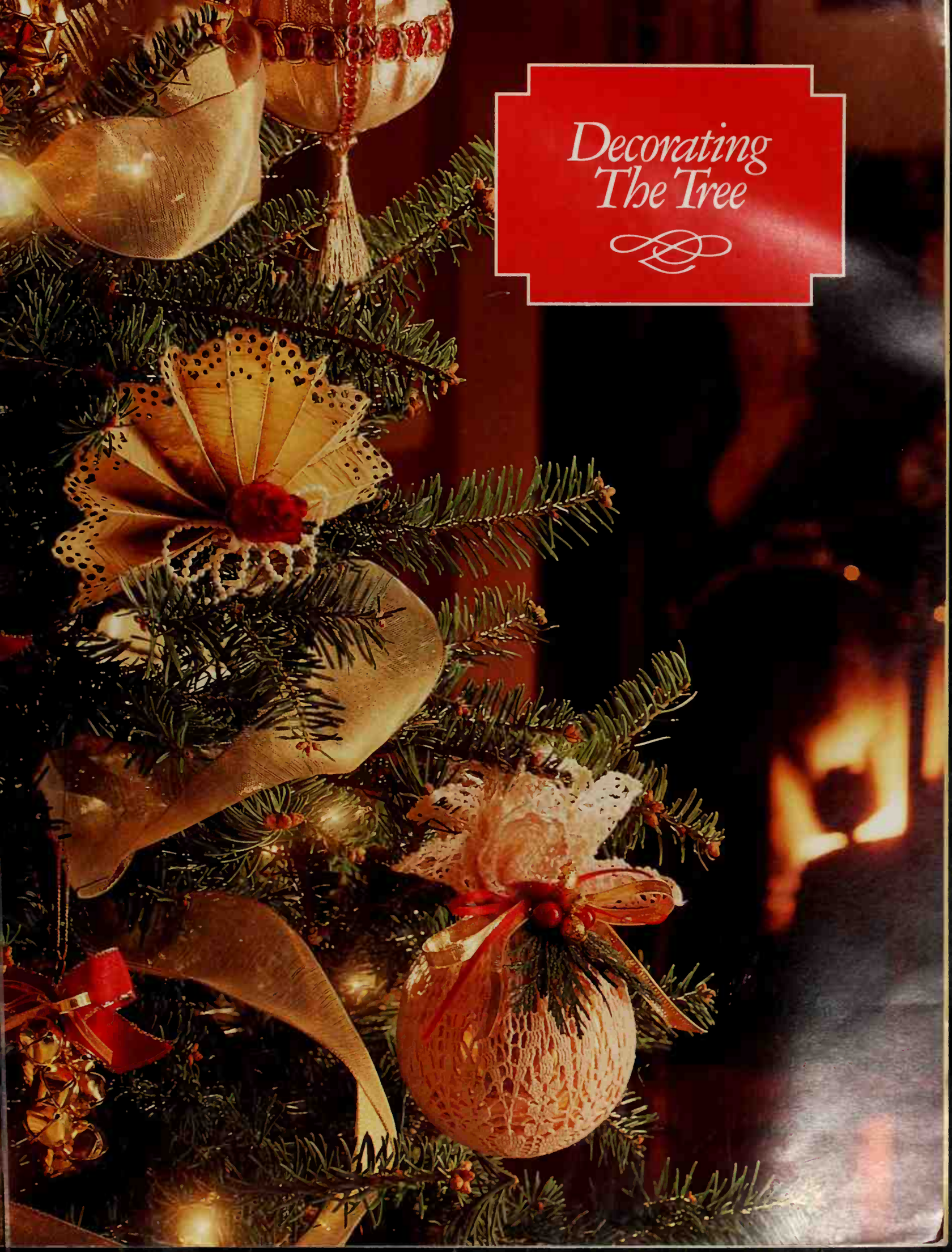

Decorating
The Tree

INTRODUCTION

Whether your style is Victorian, traditional, natural, or whimsical — "Decorating the Tree" shows you how to create original ornaments, garlands, and finishing touches to your tree. For many, family activities center around the handcrafting of decorations as children help make simple ornaments and trim the tree. Often, these handcrafted items become treasured favorites. "Decorating the Tree" contains many inspiring ideas for crafting your own treasured ornaments and tree trimmings!

Table of Contents

Scherenschnitte Ornaments & Garlands 2
Snowman Ornaments 7
Victorian Ornaments 9
Spice Ornaments 13
Drum Ornament 15
Gilded Ornaments 17
Aromatic Dough Ornaments 21
Lace Doily Ornaments 23
More Ideas for Ornaments 26
Quick & Easy Ornaments 29
Tree Trimming 31

SCHERENSCHNITTE ORNAMENTS & GARLANDS

Simple folding and cutting techniques turn ordinary paper into beautiful ornaments. The German craft of scherenschnitte (shear-en-shnit-tah), or scissors' cuttings, produces an intricate paper filigree that can be displayed as a single, flat ornament or a garland of repeated motifs. Two identical scherenschnitte pieces can be made and sewn together down the center for a three-dimensional ornament. Several patterns for each style are given on page 6. Ornaments can be antiqued, if desired, or painted with watercolor paints. For added sparkle, glitter may be applied to the ornament.

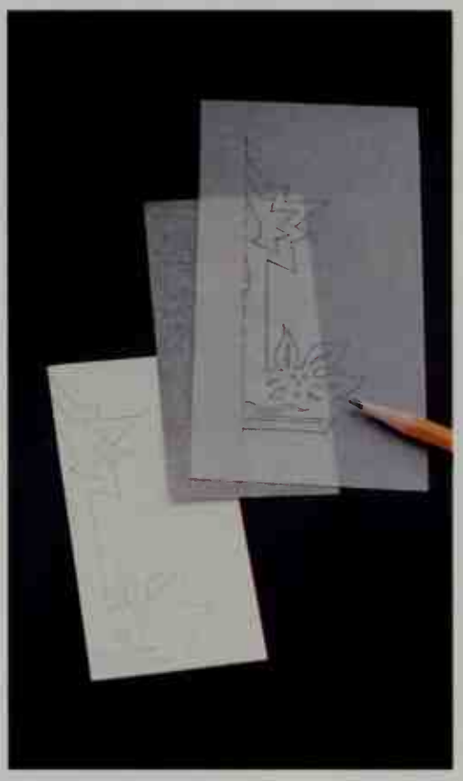
Choose art papers that have a sharp edge when cut. Parchment papers are particularly suitable for scherenschnitte, due to their strength and ability to accept stain or watercolors. Scissors with short, sharp, pointed blades are necessary for intricate work. Tiny detail cutting on the interior of the design is easier to do with a mat knife and cutting surface.

***Three-dimensional ornament** is created by stitching two identical symmetrical designs together through the center. You can also make single ornaments and garland.*

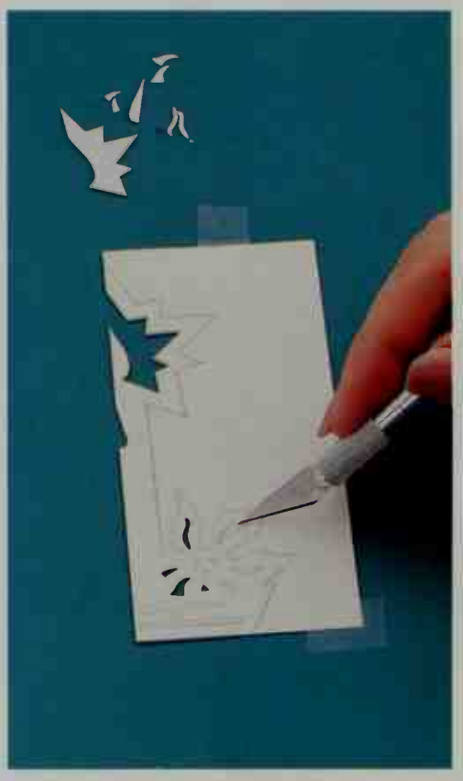
HOW TO MAKE A SINGLE SCHERENSCHNITTE ORNAMENT

MATERIALS

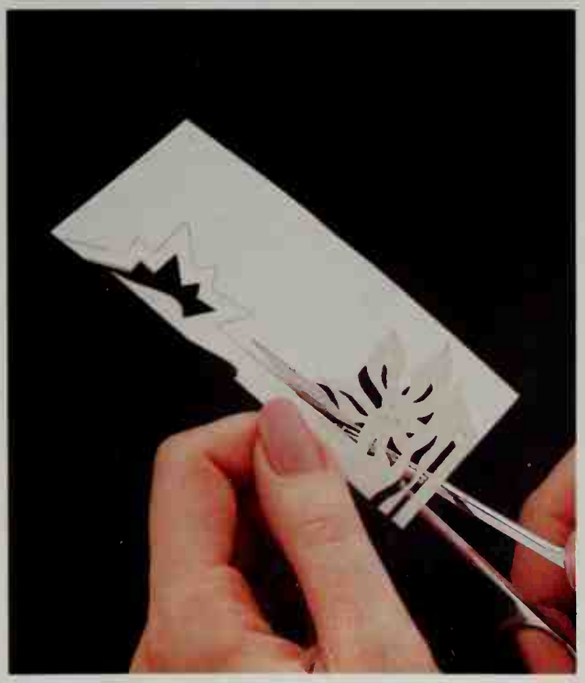
- Tracing paper.
- Art paper.
- Graphite paper, for transferring design; removable tape; scrap of corrugated cardboard.
- Scissors with short, sharp, pointed blades.
- Mat knife and cutting surface.
- Needle; thread, for hanger.
- Instant coffee and cotton-tipped swab, for antiquing, optional.
- Watercolor paints and glitter, optional.



1 Cut a piece of art paper larger than the pattern dimensions (page 6); for a symmetrical design, fold paper in half, right sides together. Trace pattern onto tracing paper. Transfer the design from tracing paper to wrong side of folded art paper, using graphite paper; align the dotted line on design to fold of art paper.



2 Tape folded art paper to cutting surface, placing the tape in area outside design. Cut out interior shapes, using mat knife; begin with shapes nearest fold, and work toward cut edges of paper. Make any small holes by punching through paper with a needle.

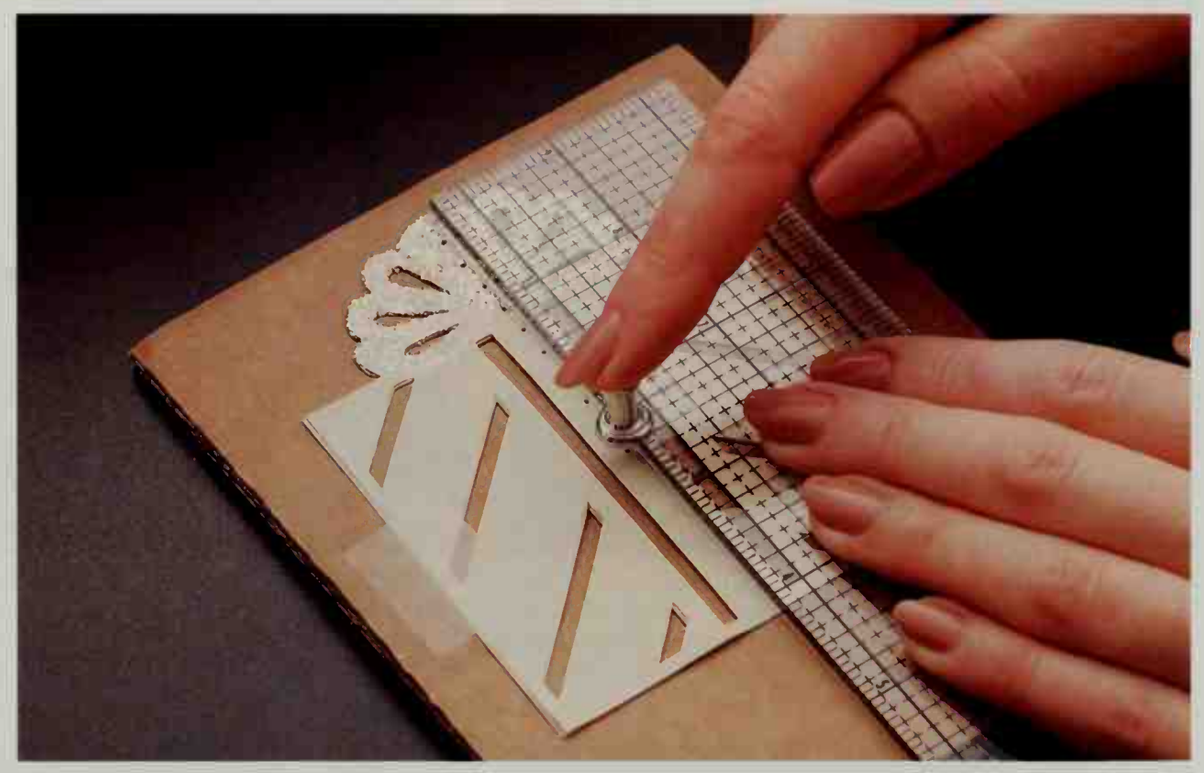


3 Remove art paper from cutting surface, and cut outer edge of design with scissors. Open cut design.

4 Press flat with a warm iron. Antique or embellish as desired. Attach thread hanger at center of the ornament, ¼" (6 mm) from the upper edge, using a hand needle; knot the thread ends.

HOW TO MAKE A THREE-DIMENSIONAL SCHERENSCHNITTE ORNAMENT

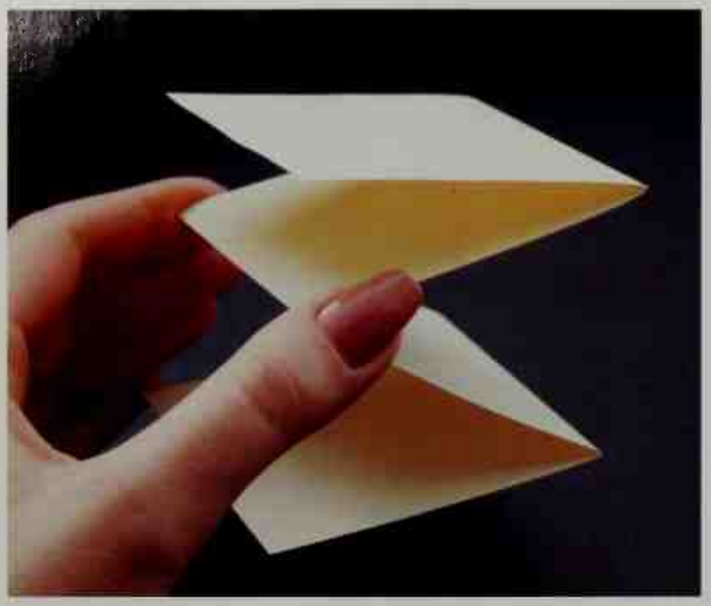
1 Follow steps 1 to 4, opposite, for two identical designs, omitting thread hanger. Place the cut designs on top of each other, aligning edges; secure to scrap of corrugated cardboard, using removable tape. Punch holes with pushpin every ¼" (6 mm) along the center fold, through both layers.



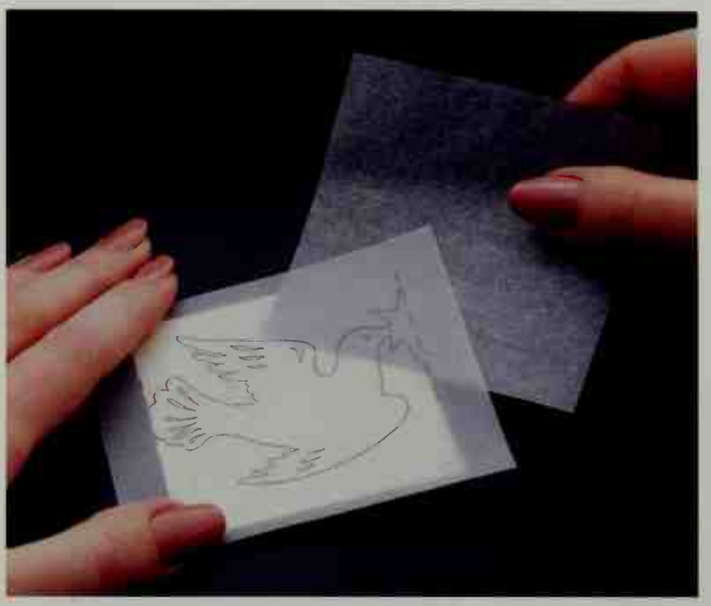
2 Thread a needle with 18" (46 cm) length of thread in same color as ornament. Sew in and out of holes from top to bottom of ornament.

3 Turn ornament over, and stitch back up to top hole. Tie the ends of thread together at desired length for hanger. Arrange the ornament sections at right angles to each other.

HOW TO MAKE A SCHERENSCHNITTE GARLAND



1 Cut strip of art paper 11" (28 cm) long and 2¾" (7 cm) wide. Fold in half, wrong sides together, to make 5½" × 4¼" (14 × 10.8 cm) strip. Fold short ends to center fold, right sides together, so the strip is accordion-folded, with wrong side facing out.

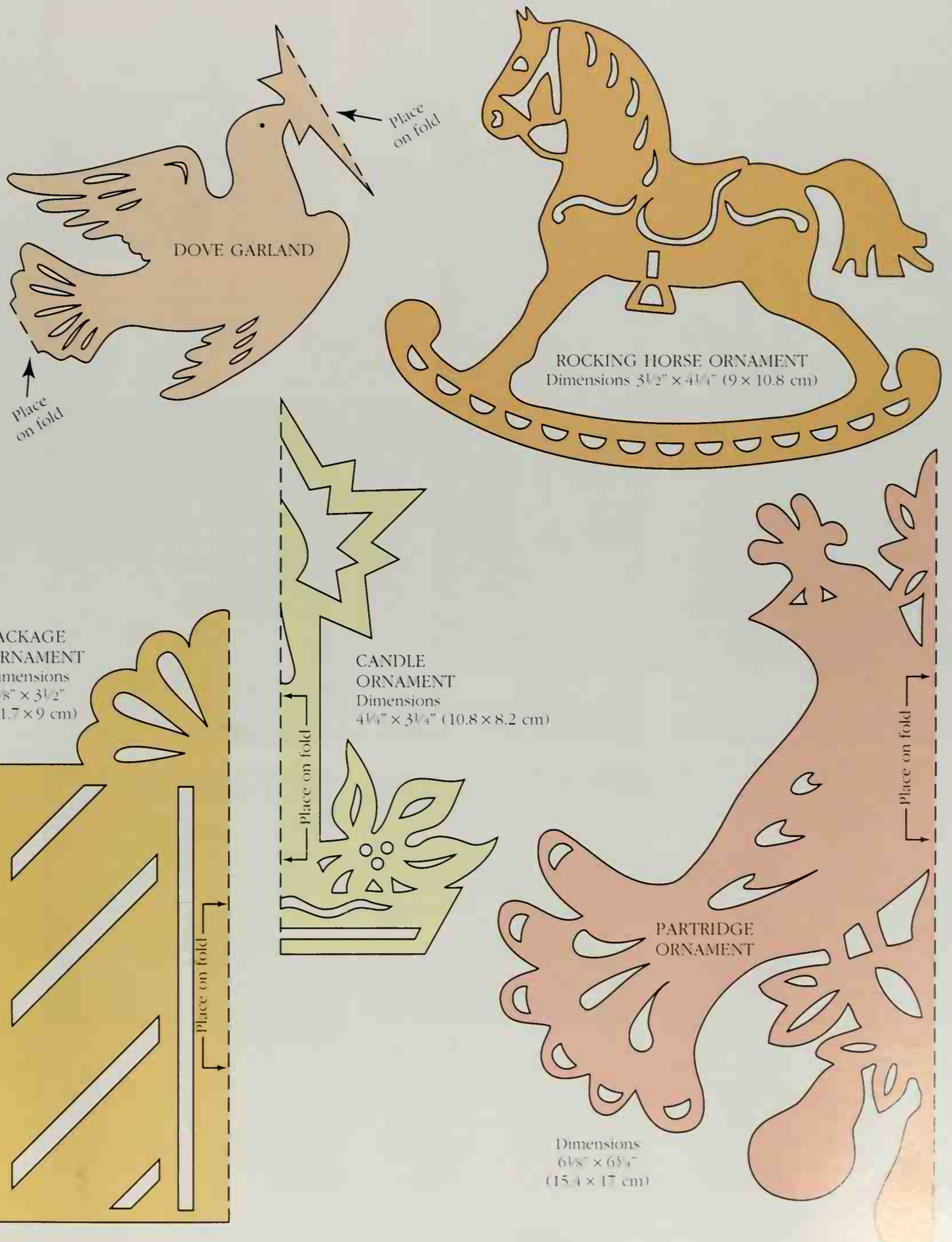


2 Trace design for garland (page 6) onto tracing paper. Transfer design from tracing paper to wrong side of folded art paper, using graphite paper; align dotted lines on design to double-folded edges of paper.

3 Cut out the design, following steps 2 and 3 for single ornament on page 3. Open out garland. Embellish, if desired.

4 Repeat steps 1 to 3 as necessary to make as many garland lengths as desired. Press the garland pieces flat with a warm iron. Join garland lengths with small pieces of tape on wrong side.

SCHERENSCHNITTE PATTERNS



SNOWMAN ORNAMENTS

These handcrafted snowmen are easily made by applying an artificial snow paste over a Styrofoam® form. Their fine features are shaped from polymer clay, a modeling compound that can be oven-baked. These tree ornaments can also be used to decorate packages and wreaths.

TIPS FOR SHAPING POLYMER CLAY

Work with the clay on a smooth, clean, flat surface. If the surface is porous, protect it with a sheet of wax paper or aluminum foil, secured to the surface with tape. Wipe the work surface and tools with petroleum jelly to prevent the clay from sticking.

Knead the clay to soften it with the warmth of your hands before shaping it.

Mix a dab of petroleum jelly into the clay if it seems dry. Keep your hands moist with petroleum jelly or hand lotion.

Roll the clay into balls of the desired size; use a circle gauge, available from stationery stores, to measure the balls.

Roll out the clay, using a rolling pin, to flatten it. Cut the clay with scissors or a mat knife.

HOW TO MAKE A SNOWMAN ORNAMENT

MATERIALS

- One 1½" (3.8 cm) Styrofoam ball; one 2½" (6.5 cm) Styrofoam egg.
- Polymer clay, such as Fimo® or Sculpey®, in orange, black, tan, red, and green.
- Artificial snow paste, such as Snow Accents™; palette knife.
- Small forked twigs; scrap of plaid wool; other accessories as desired.
- 24-gauge brass wire, for hanging ornament.
- Aerosol clear acrylic sealer.
- Toothpicks; wax paper; foam cup; baking sheet.
- Scissors or mat knife.
- Craft glue; hot glue gun and glue sticks.

1 Roll small end of Styrofoam egg, on smooth, hard surface to taper sides slightly. For snowmen with hats, trim a small amount from Styrofoam ball to flatten top. Insert toothpick halfway into the tapered end of the egg; place craft glue at base, and secure ball on top of egg, pushing it onto remainder of toothpick.

2 Form carrot by rolling ¼" (6 mm) ball of orange clay into tapered shape. Using scissors, cut buttons, eyes, and mouth from black clay that has been flattened; cut three larger pieces for buttons and six smaller ones for eyes and mouth.

3 Form hat by flattening ½" (1.3 cm) ball of black clay into round brim. Roll ¾" (2 cm) ball into a cylinder; flatten the ends, and place on brim, pressing gently.

4 Roll the clay for red hatband and green holly leaves to 1/16" (1.5 mm) thickness; cut, using scissors. Roll small berries from red clay. Gently press the hatband around the hat, and position holly and berries.

5 Form pipe by rolling ¼" (6 mm) ball of tan clay into cylinder; insert a piece of toothpick for pipe stem. Hollow out pipe and add texture, using toothpick. Press small amount of clay around toothpick near pipe bowl. Bake clay pieces on a baking sheet until hardened, following the manufacturer's instructions; hats may require more time.

6 Apply a thin coat of snow paste to Styrofoam, using palette knife; for ease in handling, mount on an inverted foam cup, using a toothpick.

7 Press clay features in place on wet snow surface. Allow snowman to dry thoroughly.

8 Make holes for twig arms, using toothpick or blunt needle. Apply craft glue to ends of twigs; insert into holes. Repeat to insert pipe.

9 Cut fabric 1" × 9" (2.5 × 23 cm) for the neck scarf. Fringe edges, and glue scarf in place. For woman, make head scarf from 5" (12.5 cm) square. Glue on additional accessories as desired.

10 Form 8" (20.5 cm) piece of wire into loop; twist ends together. Make hole in back of head. Apply glue to wire; insert in hole. Spray the entire snowman with a light coat of acrylic sealer. Remove snowman from cup, and touch up bottom of snowman with snow paste.

VICTORIAN ORNAMENTS

Victorian ornaments, such as paper fans and potpourri balls, bring a touch of nostalgia to the tree. The elegant paper fans, made from paper lace or wrapping paper, and the potpourri balls, made from bridal illusion, are trimmed with embellishments for romantic appeal.

HOW TO MAKE A PAPER FAN ORNAMENT

MATERIALS

- 12" (30.5 cm) length of paper lace, 2½" to 4" (6.5 to 10 cm) wide; or 12" (30.5 cm) length of wrapping paper, 4" (10 cm) wide.
- Metallic or pearlescent acrylic paint, optional.
- 9" (23 cm) length of narrow ribbon or cord, for hanging ornament.
- Embellishments as desired, such as dried rosebuds, statice, pearl strands, and ribbon.

1 Apply a light coat of metallic or pearlescent paint to right side of paper, if desired; thin paint as necessary, for a transparent effect. Fold paper in ½" to ⅝" (1.3 to 1.5 cm) accordion pleats, making first fold to back side of paper. Trim excess paper at end, if necessary.

2 Glue pleats together at lower edge; clamp glued ends together with clothespin until dry. Open pleats into fan.

3 Lace ribbon through a hole in top of fan; knot ends together to form hanger. Glue embellishments at lower end of fan.

HOW TO MAKE A POTPOURRI BALL ORNAMENT

MATERIALS

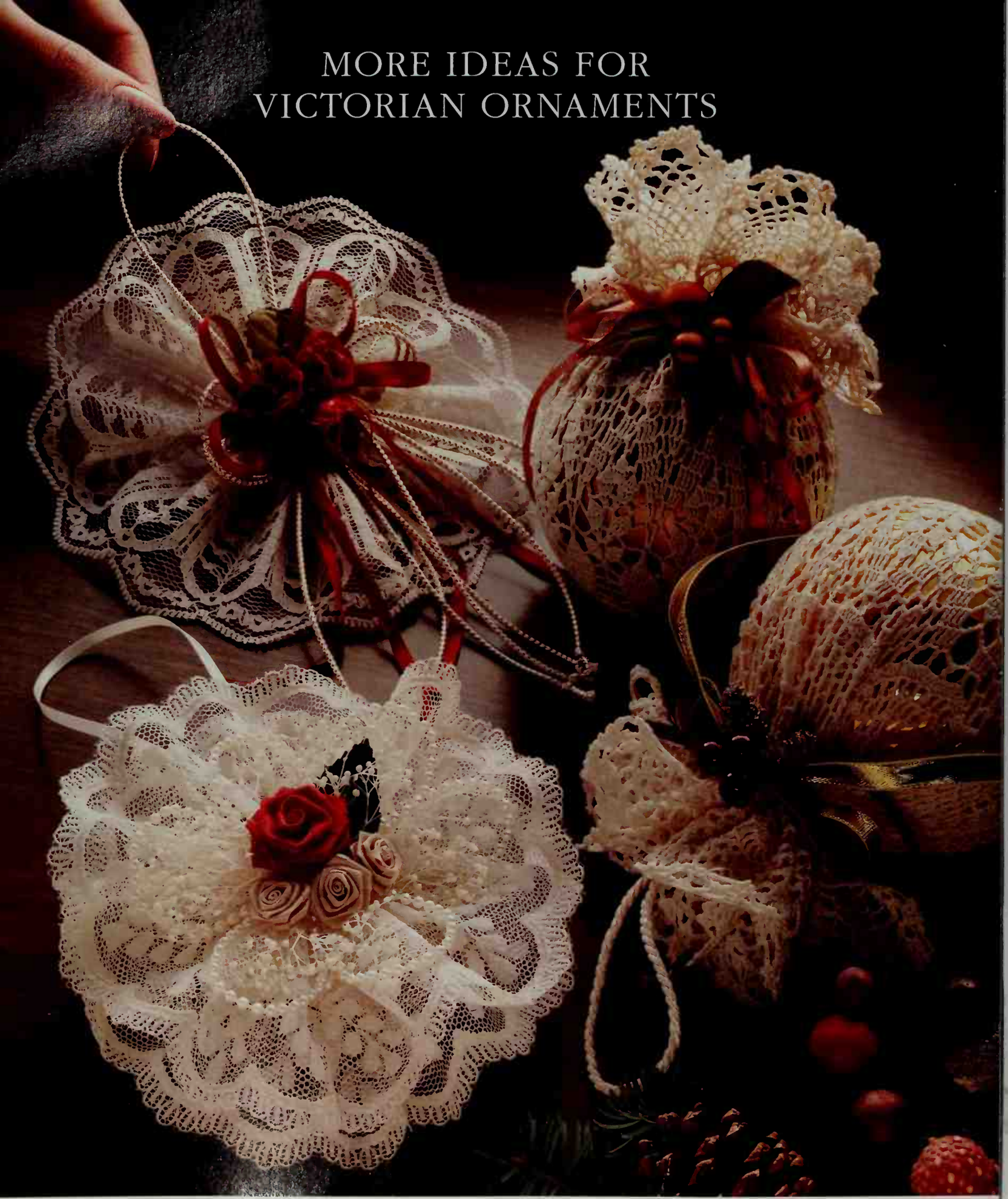
- Bridal illusion, or tulle; 5" (12.5 cm) length of pregathered lace, about 1" (2.5 cm) wide.
- Potpourri, 1 c. (2.50 mL) for each ornament.
- 3" (7.5 cm) length of 24-gauge brass wire.
- 9" (23 cm) length of narrow ribbon, for hanging ornament.
- Embellishments as desired, such as dried rosebuds, statice, pearl strands, and ribbon.

1 Place potpourri in center of 12" (30.5 cm) circle of bridal illusion. Gather illusion around potpourri to form ball; secure by twisting wire around gathers.

2 Push one end of wire into center of gathered illusion; fold over and twist to form loop. Trim excess wire.

3 Insert ribbon through wire loop; tie ends together. Glue lace around potpourri ball, overlapping ends. Add embellishments as desired.

MORE IDEAS FOR VICTORIAN ORNAMENTS



Lace balls and nosegays *are simple to make. Use lace doilies or flat lace trims for fast construction, taking advantage of the laces' prefinished edges.*

HOW TO MAKE A LACE BALL ORNAMENT

MATERIALS

- 12" (30.5 cm) round lace doily.
- 3" or 3½" (7.5 or 9 cm) clear, luminescent, or colored ball ornament.
- 9" (23 cm) length of narrow cord or ribbon, for hanging ornament.
- One or two 22" (56 cm) lengths of narrow ribbon.
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks.
- Embellishments as desired, such as baby's breath, berries, and pinecones.

1 Insert cord into ornament hanger; tie ends. Wrap doily around ball, with center of doily at bottom of ball. Tie ribbon around doily at top of ball; if two ribbons are used, tie them as one bow, and separate loops.

2 Pull edges of doily and adjust ribbons so doily is stretched to fit around ball. Embellish ornament as desired; secure items with hot glue.

HOW TO MAKE A LACE NOSEGAY ORNAMENT

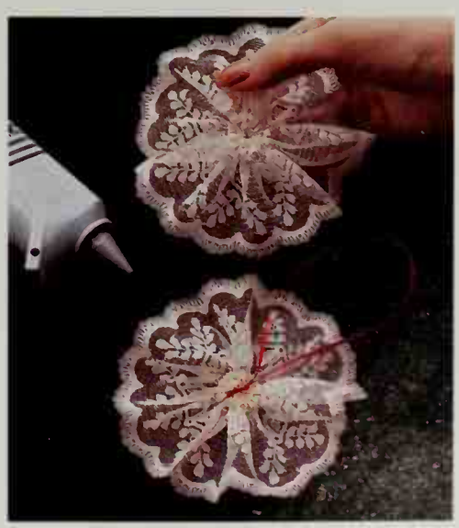
MATERIALS

- 18" (46 cm) length of flat lace trim or 12" (30.5 cm) length of pleated lace trim, 1¾" to 2¾" (4.5 to 7 cm) wide.
- 9" (23 cm) length of narrow ribbon or cord, for hanging ornament.
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks.
- Embellishments as desired, such as ribbons, pearl strands, ribbon roses, and silk flowers.

1 **Single-layer ornament.** Remove heading from lace, if pleated lace is used. Join ends of lace, right sides together, in ¼" (6 mm) seam. Then stitch ⅛" (3 mm) from upper edge of lace, using short running stitches.

2 Pull thread, gathering lace into a tight circle; secure thread. Flatten the lace circle by pressing it gently with hand.

3 Fold ribbon in half; tie ends together to make loop for hanger. Glue loop to right side of lace at center. Add embellishments as desired.



Double-layer ornament. Make two lace circles as in steps 1 and 2; add ribbon loop to one circle as in step 3. Glue lace circles together, with loop between circles.

SPICE ORNAMENTS

Spice ornaments are fragrant and colorful additions to the holiday tree. They are made by covering Styrofoam® balls with powdered or crushed dried spices. To create a variety of looks, the simple ornaments can be embellished with ribbons and preserved or artificial leaves or berries. For durability, the spice-covered ornaments are sprayed with an aerosol clear acrylic sealer.

MATERIALS

- Powdered or crushed dried spices, such as nutmeg, cinnamon, oregano, mace, paprika, parsley, poppy seed, crushed red pepper, allspice, mustard seed, chili powder, or dried orange peel.
- Aerosol acrylic paints in colors that blend with spices.
- Styrofoam balls.
- 20-gauge craft wire.
- 9" (23 cm) length of ribbon or cording, for hanger.
- Thick craft glue; hot glue gun and glue sticks.
- Aerosol clear acrylic sealer.
- Embellishments as desired.

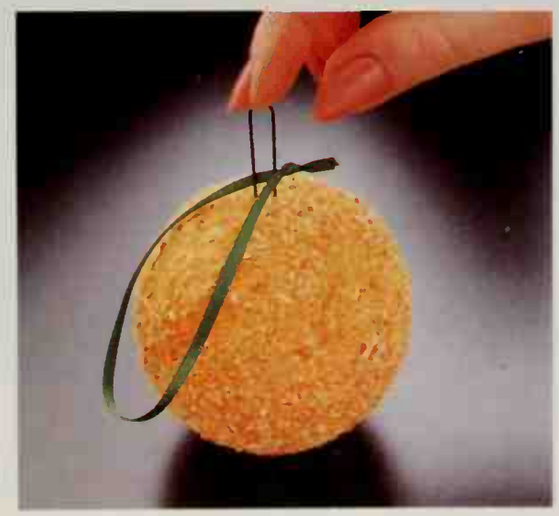
Spice ornaments, *arranged in a bowl, are made with paprika, crushed red pepper, mace, allspice, mustard seed, cinnamon, and chili powder.*

HOW TO MAKE A SPICE ORNAMENT

1 Roll Styrofoam ball lightly against table to compress the Styrofoam slightly.

2 Spray Styrofoam ball with aerosol acrylic paint; allow to dry.

3 Apply craft glue to the Styrofoam ball; roll in spice to cover. Allow to dry. Apply aerosol acrylic sealer.



4 Knot the ends of the ribbon or cording together. Bend 4" (10 cm) length of wire in half. Attach ribbon or cording to the ornament with wire as shown; secure with dot of hot glue.

5 Secure any additional embellishments to the ornament as desired, using hot glue.

DRUM ORNAMENT

This drum ornament is cleverly crafted by forming prestarched fabric over the cap of an aerosol can. Paint drums in subdued colors for a realistic look or in an array of colors for a theme Christmas tree. An oil-based stain applied over the paint gives an antiqued look.

TIPS FOR USING PRESTARCHED FABRIC

Dip fabric pieces quickly in cool water; begin shaping immediately.

Work quickly, and do not handle the fabric any more than necessary. If the fabric is overworked, it becomes limp and does not hold its shape.

Keep your fingers wet during shaping to prevent the fabric from sticking to them.

Adjust the folds of the fabric with T-pins to avoid overworking the fabric.

Allow the fabric to dry overnight, and apply two light coats of acrylic sealer before painting.

Apply two coats of paint to the fabric for good coverage, allowing the first coat to dry before applying the second coat.

HOW TO MAKE A DRUM ORNAMENT

MATERIALS

- Prestarched fabric, such as Dip 'n Drape®, Drape 'n Shape, and Fab-U-Drape®.
- Cylinder-shaped plastic cap from aerosol can, about 2½" (6.5 cm) in diameter by 2" (5 cm) high; rubber band to fit around cap.
- Acrylic paints and brushes; ivory paint for top of drum and desired color for base of drum.
- Two ⅜" (1 cm) wooden beads and two round toothpicks, for drumsticks.
- 15" (38 cm) length of cord or leather lacing; sprig of artificial holly.
- Oil-based stain; aerosol clear acrylic sealer.
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks; wax paper.
- Permanent marking pen for personalizing ornament, optional.

CUTTING DIRECTIONS

From prestarched fabric, cut one 7" (18 cm) and one 4½" (11.5 cm) square of fabric for each ornament.

1 Dip 7" (18 cm) square of fabric in cool water for 5 to 10 seconds; center fabric over top of the plastic cap. Pull fabric down over sides, smoothing folds flush against cap; fold and finger-press raw edges to inside of cap. Turn cap over; allow to dry on wax paper.

2 Wet 4½" (11.5 cm) square of fabric as in step 1; center it over cap opening. Place rubber band around cap, about ¼" (6 mm) from edge; gently pull fabric taut.

3 Fold under raw edges, working with wet fingers; leave edges scalloped. When dry, remove the rubber band.

4 Apply acrylic sealer to drum. Paint top of drum ivory; paint base of drum desired color. When dry, apply second coat; allow to dry. Apply the stain to the drum, using old brush and following the manufacturer's instructions; wipe off excess stain with soft rag. If stain reappears while drying, rewipe as necessary.

5 Tie cord or lacing around drum, and tie ends together to make a loop for hanging ornament. Glue holly sprig to drum at knot.

6 Cut off pointed ends of two round toothpicks; dip one end of each in glue, and insert into beads to make drumsticks. Glue drumsticks to drum.

7 Apply a light coat of acrylic sealer for protective finish. If desired, personalize ornament, using permanent marking pen.

GILDED ORNAMENTS

Add a touch of glitz to your tree with a variety of golden and jewel-tone ornaments. Fill clear or luminescent balls with glittery tinsel. String clusters of small sleigh bells on wire and tie them with gold-trimmed bows. Or cover Styrofoam® balls with fabric and trim them with braids to coordinate with the room decor.

MATERIALS

- Clear or luminescent glass ball with removable top.
- Shredded tinsel.
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks.
- 9" (23 cm) length of gold cord, for hanging ornament.
- Embellishments as desired, such as ribbon, statice, berries, and sprigs of greenery.

HOW TO MAKE A TINSEL-FILLED ORNAMENT

1 Remove top of ornament. Insert desired amount of shredded tinsel into ball; replace top. Tinsel may be curled, as for curling ribbon, if desired.

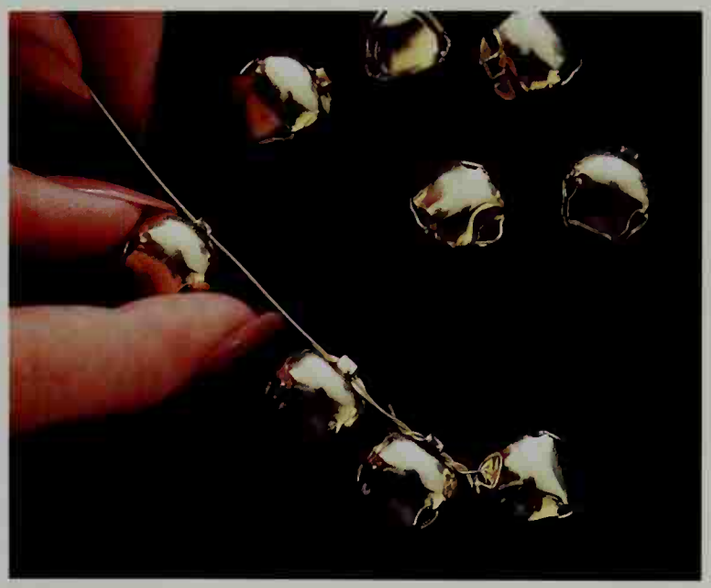
2 Insert gold cord through wire holder; tie ends. Attach embellishments to top of ornament, if desired, using hot glue.

HOW TO MAKE A SLEIGH BELL ORNAMENT

MATERIALS

- Nine ⅝" (1.5 cm) sleigh bells.
- 8" (20.5 cm) length of 24-gauge brass wire.
- 10" (25.5 cm) length of ribbon, ⅝" (1.5 cm) wide.
- 8" (20.5 cm) length of ribbon, ¼" (6 mm) wide.
- 9" (23 cm) length of gold cord, for hanging ornament.

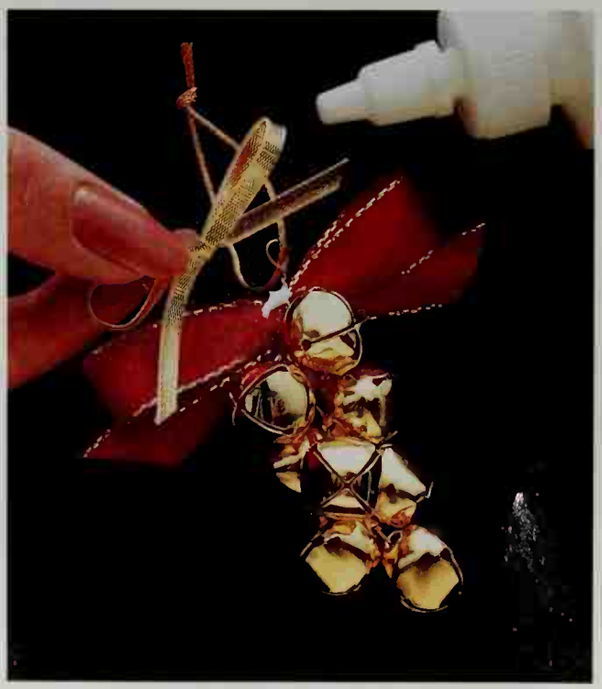
1 Insert about 1" (2.5 cm) of wire through hanger of bell; twist to secure.



2 Insert other end of wire into remaining bells. First bell will be at bottom of ornament.

3 Make bow by folding ⅝" (1.5 cm) ribbon back and forth, forming a loop on each side; secure above top bell by wrapping wire around center of bow several times.

4 Form wire loop above bow, twisting wire to secure; trim excess wire.

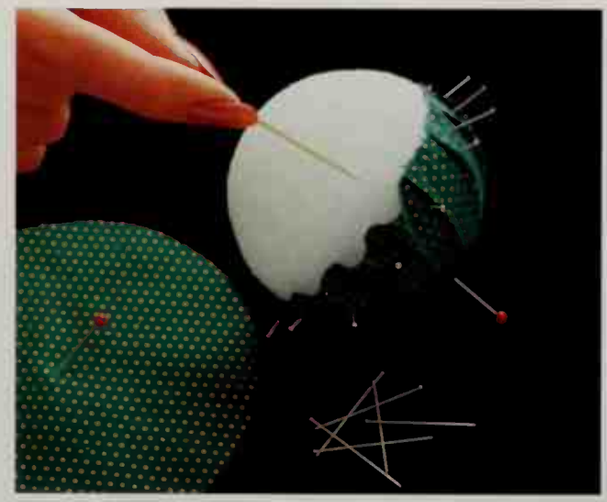


5 Insert gold cord through the wire loop; tie ends. Tie ¼" (6 mm) ribbon in small bow; glue at center of looped bow, concealing the wire.

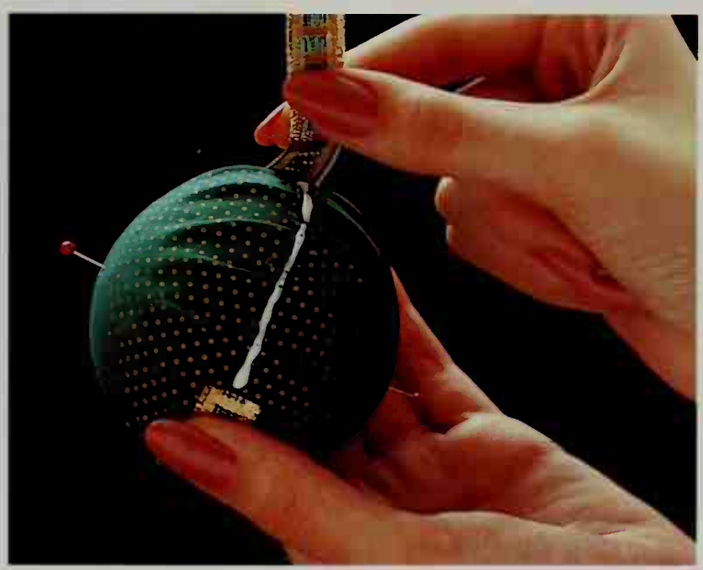
HOW TO MAKE A FABRIC-WRAPPED ORNAMENT

MATERIALS

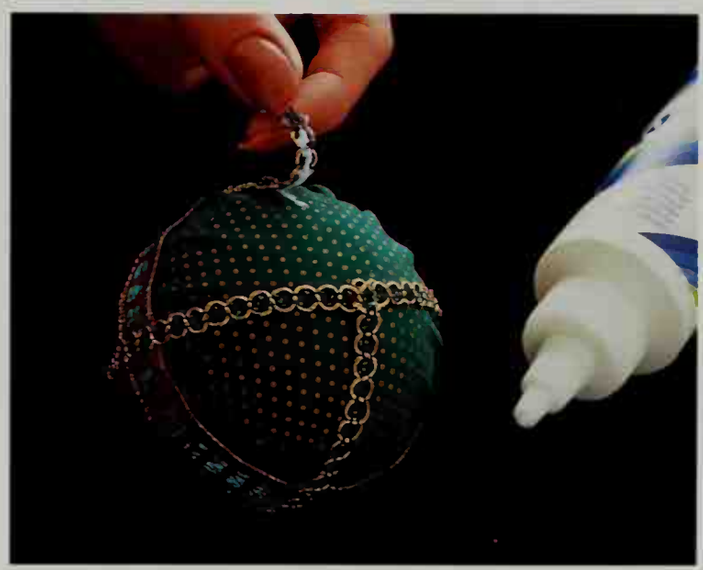
- 3" (7.5 cm) Styrofoam® ball.
- ¼ yd. (0.25 m) fabric.
- 12" (30.5 cm) length of gold braid, ½" (1.3 cm) wide.
- 22" (56 cm) length of gold braid, ¼" (6 mm) wide.
- 9" (23 cm) length of gold cord and decorative cap, for hanging ornament.
- One tassel.
- Fabric glue; hot glue gun and glue sticks.



1 Cut two fabric circles, 4¾" (12 cm) in diameter; pin-mark center of each circle. Pin one circle to Styrofoam ball, distributing fullness evenly at raw edge. Glue edge of fabric to ball, making small tucks to ease in fullness.

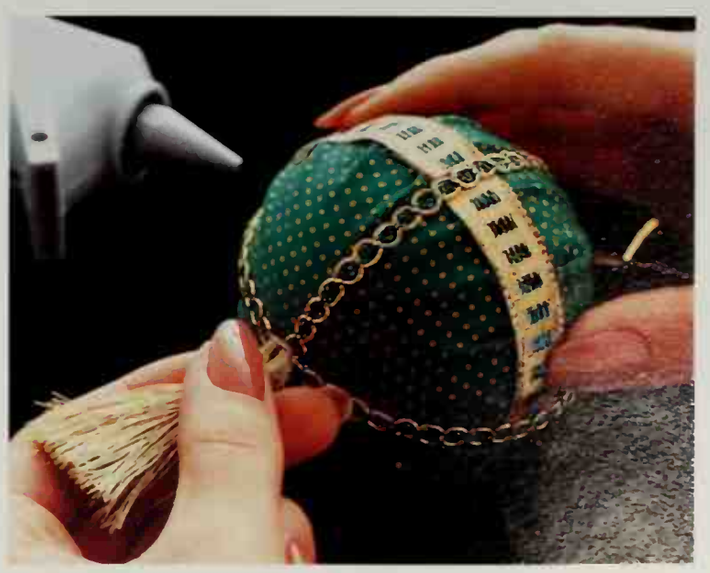


2 Repeat for opposite side of ball, using remaining fabric circle. Glue ½" (1.3 cm) gold braid around middle of ball, covering raw edges of fabric.



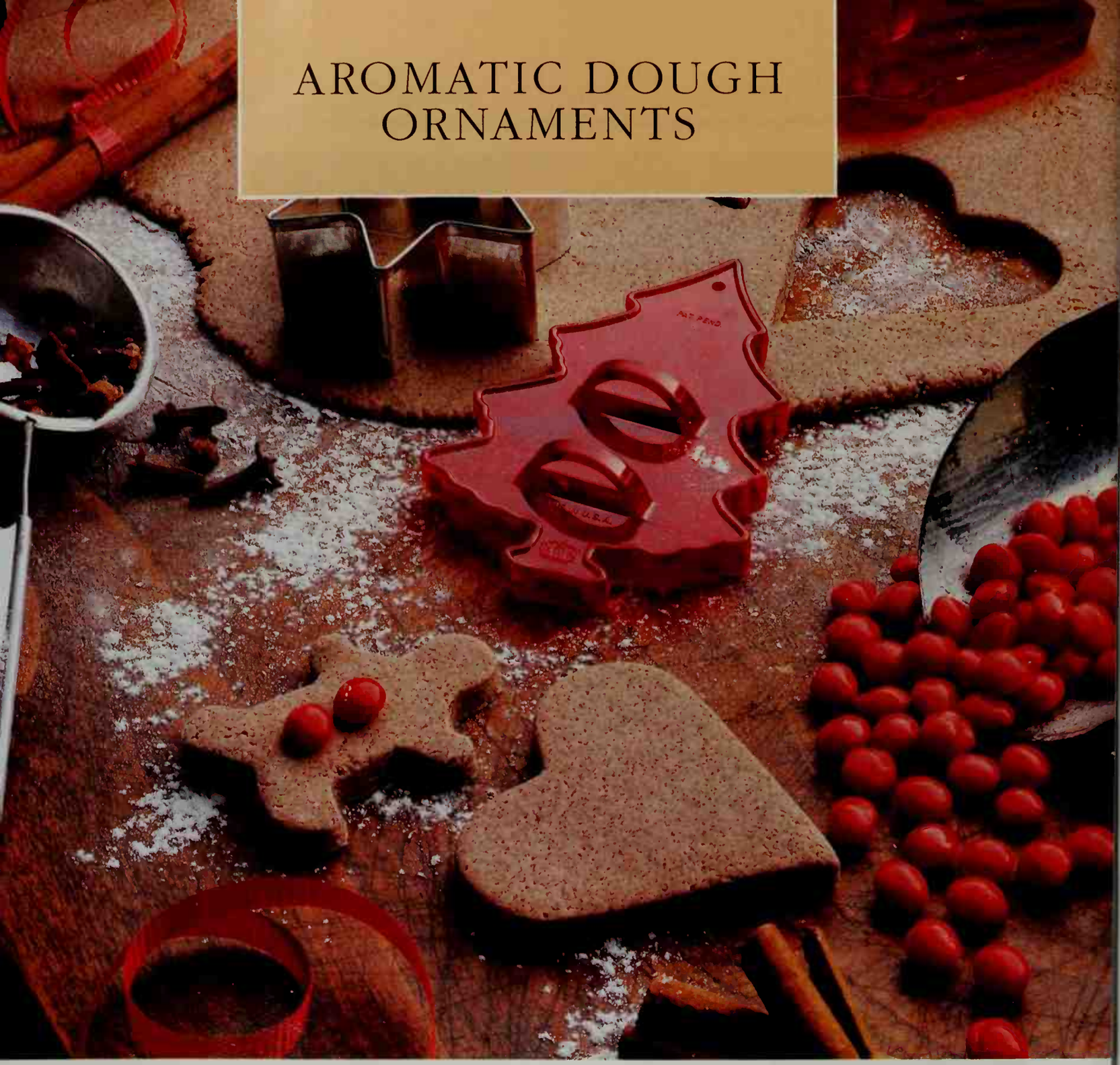
3 Cut ¼" (6 mm) gold braid in half; glue around ball in opposite directions, dividing ball into four sections. Use center pin marks as guide for centering braid.

4 Insert gold cord in decorative cap; knot ends. Shape cap to fit top of ornament; secure with hot glue.



5 Attach tassel to bottom of ornament, using hot glue.

AROMATIC DOUGH ORNAMENTS



For an old-fashioned country look, you can decorate the Christmas tree with aromatic dough ornaments. A variety of ornaments can be created, depending on the shapes of cookie cutters used. Either a microwave or a conventional oven can be used for making the ornaments. The conventional oven method may produce ornaments with a more irregular surface. The microwave directions are based on a 600-watt microwave oven. The cooking time and finished product may vary, depending on the wattage and size of your microwave oven.

For added embellishment, decorate the ornaments with whole cloves, allspice, cinnamon candies, or bits of dough. Hang the ornaments from the tree with ribbon, raffia, or torn strips of cotton fabric.

MATERIALS

- Ingredients for aromatic dough, opposite.
- Mixing bowl; floured board; rolling pin; cookie cutters.
- 10" (25.5 cm) pie plate for microwave method, or baking sheet for conventional oven method.
- Garlic press, optional.
- Drinking straw, 3/8" (1 cm) in diameter.
- Nonstick vegetable cooking spray.
- 9" (23 cm) length of ribbon or raffia, for hanger.
- Embellishments, such as cinnamon candies, whole cloves, or allspice.

HOW TO MAKE AROMATIC DOUGH ORNAMENTS

AROMATIC DOUGH

2¾ cups (675 mL) all-purpose flour
¾ cup (175 mL) salt
¼ cup (50 mL) ground cinnamon
1 tablespoon (15 mL) ground allspice
1 tablespoon (15 mL) ground cloves
¾ teaspoon (4 mL) powdered alum
1¼ cups (300 mL) water

Combine flour, salt, cinnamon, allspice, cloves, and alum in a medium mixing bowl. Add water. Mix well to form dough. Shape the dough into ball. Knead on lightly floured board for about 5 minutes, or until dough is smooth. (If too stiff, sprinkle with additional water; if too moist, add flour.) Spray pie plate or baking sheet with nonstick vegetable cooking spray; set aside. For conventional oven method, heat oven to 250°F (120°C).

1 Prepare aromatic dough (left). Roll dough to ¼" (6 mm) thickness on lightly floured surface; work with small portions of the dough at a time. Cut out the shapes with cookie cutters.

2 Embellish cutouts with cinnamon candies, cloves, allspice, or bits of textured dough; make the textured dough by pushing small amounts of dough through a garlic press. Secure the dough to cutouts by moistening it with water. Cut hole for hanger near top of cutout, using drinking straw.

3 Spray pie plate or baking sheet with vegetable cooking spray. Place cutouts on prepared pie plate or baking sheet. Microwave or bake in conventional oven as directed below. **Microwave oven method.** Cook at 30% (Medium Low) for 5 to 8 minutes, or until the tops of the cutouts feel dry, rotating the plate and checking the ornaments every 2 minutes. **Conventional oven method.** Bake for about 2 hours, or until tops are dry and feel firm to the touch.

4 Remove ornaments to a rack and set aside for 24 hours or longer to complete drying. If desired, spray the ornaments lightly with vegetable cooking spray for glossier appearance. Insert the ribbon or raffia for hangers through the holes of the ornaments; knot ends together.

Note: *These ornaments are for decoration only.*

LACE DOILY ORNAMENTS

Lace doily ornaments, shaped as wreaths, semicircles, and baskets, give a Victorian look to a Christmas tree.

By using the ornaments, instead of bows, on packages, they become an extra keepsake gift.

Make the ornaments easily from Battenberg lace or cutwork doilies. Add ribbon hangers, and embellish the ornaments with trimmings such as dried or silk flowers or pearl strands.

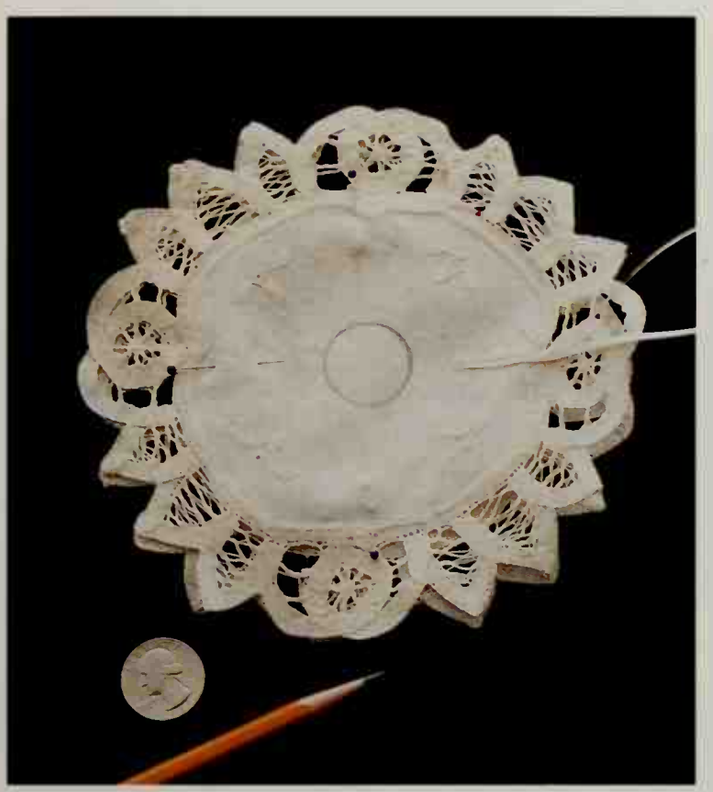
MATERIALS (for lace doily wreath or semicircle ornament)

- Two 6" (15 cm) Battenberg or cutwork doilies, for lace wreath, or one for lace semicircle.
- Polyester fiberfill.
- 9" (23 cm) length of ribbon or braid trim, for hanger.
- Embellishments, such as dried or silk floral materials, pearl strands, and ribbon.
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks, optional.

MATERIALS (for lace doily basket ornament)

- One 8" (20.5 cm) Battenberg or cutwork doily: one doily makes two ornaments.
- 9" (23 cm) length of ribbon or braid trim, for hanger.
- Embellishments, such as dried or silk floral materials, optional.
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks, optional.

HOW TO SEW A LACE DOILY WREATH ORNAMENT



1 Baste ends of ribbon to wrong side of doily, about 1¼" (3.2 cm) from center. Mark 1" (2.5 cm) circle in center of one doily on wrong side. Pin the doilies right sides together.

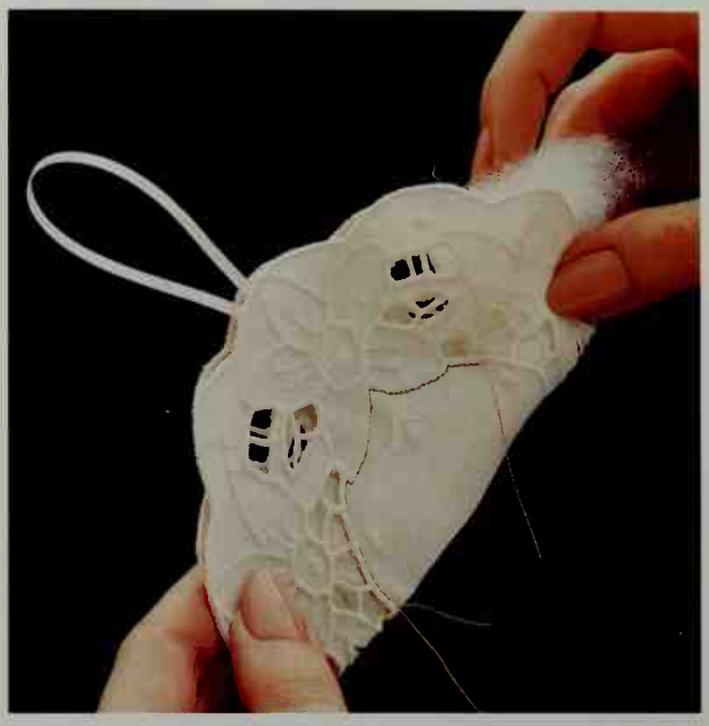
2 Stitch around circle on marked line, using short stitch length. Trim away the fabric on the inside of circle ⅛" (3 mm) from stitching; turn right side out through center.

3 Stitch around the doilies, along the inner edge of lace trim, or 1" (2.5 cm) from the previous stitching; leave 2" (5 cm) opening.

4 Stuff the wreath with polyester fiberfill; stitch the opening closed by machine, using zipper foot. Secure embellishments with hot glue or by hand-stitching them in place.

HOW TO SEW A LACE DOILY SEMICIRCLE ORNAMENT

1 Baste ends of ribbon to wrong side of doily, about ¾" (2 cm) from center of doily. Fold doily in half.



2 Stitch around the semicircle, along inner edge of lace, or 1" (2.5 cm) from outer edge, using a short stitch length; leave 1" (2.5 cm) opening. Complete as in step 4, opposite.

HOW TO SEW A LACE DOILY BASKET ORNAMENT

1 Cut doily in half. Fold one doily piece in half again, right sides together; mark point on raw edge at fold. Mark point on outer curved edge ½" (1.3 cm) from cut edge; draw line connecting points.

2 Cut on the marked line. Stitch ¼" (6 mm) from the raw edge, using short stitch length. Turn right side out; press.

3 Stitch ribbon to each side of the basket; seam is at the center back. Secure any embellishments with hot glue or by hand-stitching in place.

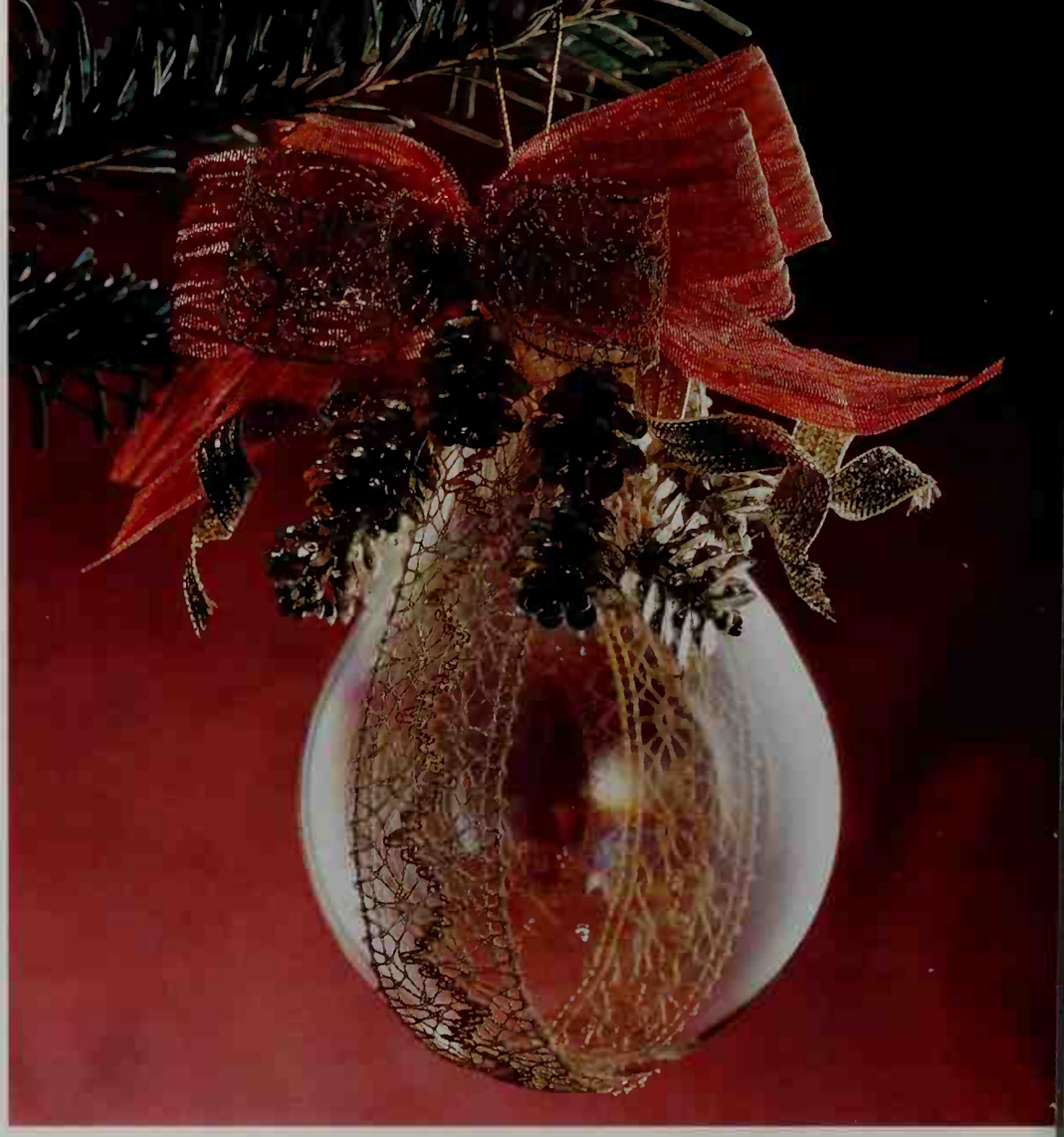
MORE IDEAS FOR ORNAMENTS

Bundles of cinnamon sticks, *glued together and tied with ribbon, make quick, fragrant ornaments. Embellish the ribbon with a sprig of greenery.*

Miniature dried rosebuds *make delicate ornaments. Secure the rosebuds to a 3" (5 cm) Styrofoam® ball; leave space for pinning and gluing a ribbon hanger in place.*

Paper twist and raffia *make quick country ornaments. Wrap a 10" (25.5 cm) length of untwisted paper twist around a 2" (5 cm) Styrofoam ball, securing it with several pieces of raffia. Also secure raffia for the hanger, using hot glue.*

Simple designs, *applied with paint pens, can add extra sparkle to glass ornaments. Replace the wire hangers with bows of gold cording and ribbon.*



Ribbon, lace, and small cones *(right) turn a plain ornament into an elegant tree decoration. Secure the embellishments using dots of clear-drying glue.*

Torn fabric strips *are tied around a cinnamon stick to make a Christmas tree ornament (below). Whole allspice and anise are used for embellishment. Secure raffia hanger with hot glue.*

Large cones, painted like Santas, *(below) make quick and inexpensive ornaments. Secure strings for the hangers, using a drop of hot glue. Form the face, beard, and hairline, using artificial snow paste; then paint the ornament, using acrylic paints. Trim the top of the completed ornament with snow paste.*

Small Santa sacks, *filled with miniature toys, make delightful ornaments.*

Bundles of twigs, *tied with jute or ribbon, make simple, rustic ornaments. Embellish the ornament with greenery and a small bird; then spray it with an acrylic sealer.*

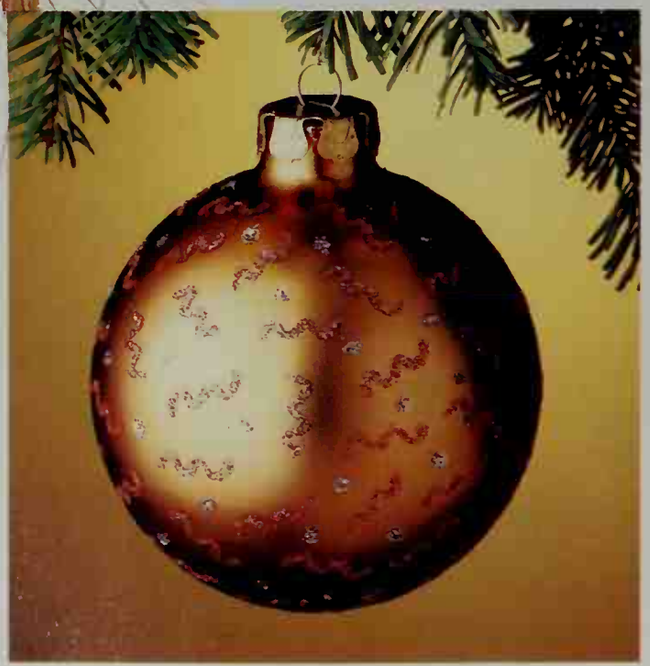
Cinnamon sticks *and clothespins, painted like Santas, are fun for all ages. Use nontoxic acrylic paints for the simple Santa faces; secure strings for hangers, using a drop of hot glue.*

Clear plastic balls *that snap together can be filled with cherished mementos to make special keepsake ornaments.*

QUICK & EASY ORNAMENTS

***Wheat bundles** (left), hung upside down, are attractive accents on trees with natural or country decorating styles. The wheat stems are secured in bundles with a rubber band, which is concealed with a fabric bow. Secure the ornaments to the tree using floral wire.*

***Wire garland,** shaped into spirals, adds glitz to a Christmas tree. Wrap a 26" (66 cm) length of wire garland around a pen or pencil. Remove the wire, then gradually untwist the coil from one end to make the ornament. At the widest end, bend the wire to form a hanger.*



***Glitter** adds sparkle to plain ornaments. Mark designs on the ornaments using a glue-stick pen, then sprinkle with extra-fine glitter.*

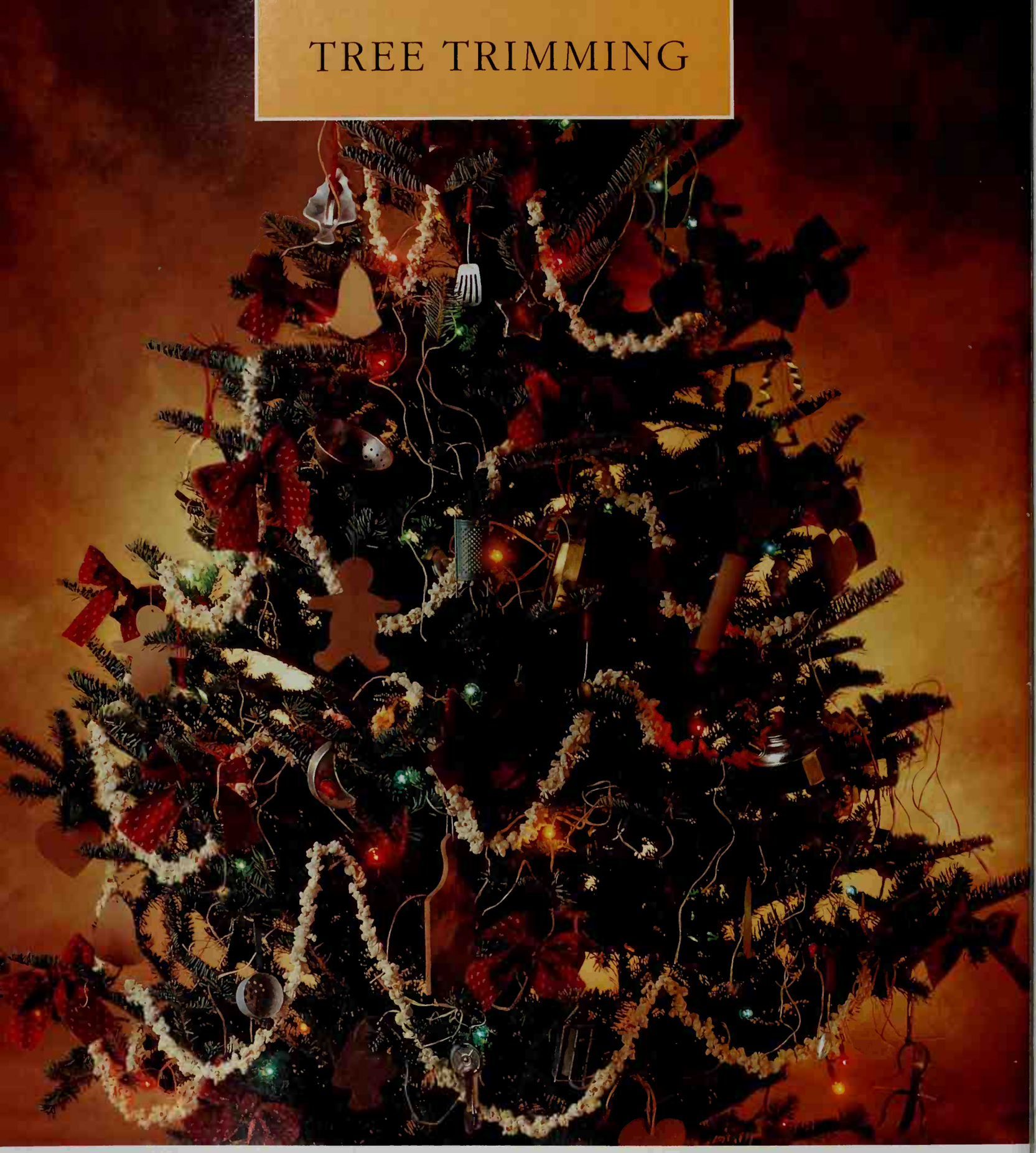
Dried fruit slices *make aromatic ornaments. Orange slices, glued together, are decorated with sprigs of greenery, berries, and ribbon hangers. The apple slices have jute hangers and are embellished with anise and cinnamon sticks. Dried fruit slices are available at craft stores.*

Torn fabric strips *are wrapped and glued around Styrofoam® balls to make country-style ornaments. Secure raffia bows and hangers with hot glue.*

Ribbons and berries *embellish the tops of purchased glass ornaments. Ribbons also replace the traditional wire hangers.*

Glitter glue *in fine-tip tubes is applied to a glass ball ornament, creating a unique dimensional design.*

TREE TRIMMING



Collectible metal toys and cookie cutters *are used as ornaments to create a country-style tree. Popcorn garland and fabric bows are used for contrast, and raffia streamers add to the country look.*

A variety of ornaments can be mixed successfully on a tree. Create a unified look by emphasizing a particular color or style, repeating it in several areas of the tree. For interest, add a few elements of surprise, such as an artificial bird's nest, oversize decorations, dried or silk flowers, or raffia streamers.

Wired-ribbon bow *is used as a tree topper. Streamers of ribbon cascade down the tree and are tucked into the branches. Gold and bronze foliage and berry picks are tucked into the branches to complete the elegant look.*

Dried floral materials, *such as baby's breath, German statice, roses, and pepper berries, are tucked into the tree, creating a garland effect. Several craft bird's nests and birds add to the natural look. Dried flowers, tied with a bow, are used as a tree topper.*

Artificial fruit garland *gives a natural look to this tree. Aromatic dried-fruit-slice ornaments (pages 29 and 30) and honeysuckle vine are used to decorate the tree.*

Oversize decorations, *such as snowmen, can be used for impact on a tree. Place the oversize decorations on the tree first, securing them with floral wire, if necessary. Candy canes and frosted twigs are used to fill in bare areas.*

MORE TREE TRIMMING

Trimmings, such as garlands and bows, are available in an endless variety. These finishing touches unify the tree, even when several styles of ornaments are used together. Choose items that are in keeping with the color scheme and theme of the tree. Some trimmings work better for Victorian decorating styles, while others may be either whimsical, glitzy, or rustic.

***Ribbon** is wrapped loosely around the tree, spiraling from top to bottom.*

***Bows** secured to branches with wire unify a tree with color and repetition.*

***Purchased trims,** such as the ruched paper trim shown here, can be strewn on branches as garlands.*

***Ornaments** clustered in groups of three have more impact than single ornaments.*

***Streamers** are made by wiring five strands of ribbon together, looping them at one end. Attach the wire to the top of the tree, letting the streamers fall freely, or tuck them lightly into the branches. The dried fruits may either be purchased or made, using a food dehydrator.*

***Tassels** hung on the tips of branches have the look of traditional elegance.*

***Bridal illusion,** English netting, or other types of net can be tucked between branches to fill in any bare areas.*

25 2 200
$ .75

UPC 0 52944 01065 2

U.S.A. $6.95

Priced higher in Canada

CREATIVE PUBLISHING international

ISBN 0-86573-576-x

EAN 9 780865 735767 50695